(b) whether the said officer was in jail for about two months and his bail application was once rejected by the Gujarat High Court;

(c) why the said officer is reposted on the same post;

(d) whether the officers who are making enquiries in that scam were transferred by the Railway administration; and

(e) whether further enquiry has been handed over to Railway Vigilance Department and what action has been taken against the concerned officer who was involved in this scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Vadodara, Western Railway was arrested on 27.2.2005 in respect of scam of refunding the amount for fake railway tickets.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To comply with the direction of the Hon'ble Court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (Railways) to keep the officer within the boundary of the State, certain administrative changes were necessary because of which he was initially accommodated on the same post on his getting bail. However, he was subsequently transferred to Rajkot and posted as Senior Divisional Operating Manager of Rajkot Division, Western Railway where he joined on 26.5.2005.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir. there is a stay upon the investigation by an order of the Hon'ble High Court of Gujarat at present. The case has not been entrusted to the Railway Vigilance Department.

Sleeper coach workshop in Bihara, Assam

2163. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTCHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sleeper coach workshop is going to be established in Bihara of Cachar District, Assam for which tender have been called for;

(b) whether the work order has been given to the lowest bidder, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Linking of North-Eastern states with Bangladesh

2164. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the prospects that will be derived if Agartala, Tripura be linked with Akhaura of Bangladesh by railway line in respect of likely transportation between North-Eastern States and Kolkata *via* Bangladesh;

(b) the steps contemplated by Government on that line; and

(c) other similar measures that Government propose for extension of Railways to ease transportation in the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Survey has been taken up for linking Agartala (India) with Akhaura (Bangladesh). Indian side survey has already been completed.

(c) A number of new line and gauge conversion projects have been taken up in North-Eastern region for rail infrastructure development to meet the demand of traffic.

Linking of ports with freight trains

†2165. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has been contemplating a plan under which all ports could be linked to goods train;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the estimates regarding financial resources of the proposed plan are being made and by when this plan is proposed to be commenced?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.